GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
WATER TRAINS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Novel Invention known as `Water Train`, developed in Kerala in 1987 by an engineer of the Kerala State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had sought any report from the Foreign Expert Organisations in this connection;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and details of their report in the matter; and

(e) the reasons for non-implementation of the `Water Train` technology commercially in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Kurian George, an engineer of the Kerala State Electricity Board developed the concept of a water train, which consists of two or more vessels coupled together and hauled on a monorail installed along a water channel. A model was tested in Cochin University of Science and Technology through a project supported by State Committee on Science, Technology and Environment (STEC), Government of Kerala.

(c) No, the Department has not referred this matter to any foreign experts or organisations.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) DST has supported the project on `Water Train - Experimental and Field Model` at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur with Shri Kurian George as a co-investigator. The experiments and trials are at their final stages. The issue of commercial implementation of the water train technology depends on these investigations and the interest evinced by prospective user and/or entrepreneurs.